

whererin:

A represents sulfur or selenium;

Z represents a combination of a substituted or unsubstituted non-cyclic spacer

which separates A from the carbonyl carbon of the amido group by 1 to 10 atoms, said atoms being independently selected from carbon, oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen and phosphorous, and a substituted or unsubstituted mono- or fused or nonfused poly-heterocyclic radical, wherein said non-cyclic spacer separates A from one of said heterocyclic radicals by 1 to 10 atoms;

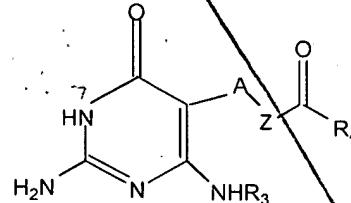
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R₃ represents H or a straight, branched or cyclic (C₁ to C₆) alkyl group, optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups; and

R₄ represents hydroxy, (C₁ to C₆) alkyloxy group optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups, or a protected or unprotected amino acid linked to the acyl group of formula V by the amine portion of the amino acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please cancel Claim 53.

54. (AMENDED) A process for preparing a compound having the formula V



V

wherein:

A represents sulfur or selenium;

Z represents a combination of a substituted or unsubstituted non-cyclic spacer

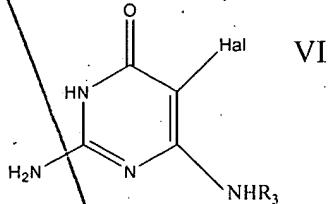
which separates A from the carbonyl carbon of the amido group by 1 to 10 atoms, said atoms being independently selected from carbon, oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen and phosphorous, and a substituted or unsubstituted mono- or fused or nonfused poly-heterocyclic radical, wherein said non-cyclic spacer separates A from one of said heterocyclic radicals by 1 to 10 atoms;

R_3 represents H or a straight, branched or cyclic (C_1 to C_6) alkyl group, optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups; and

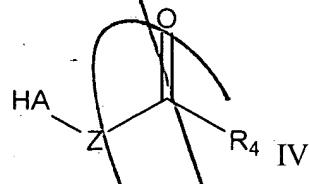
R_4 represents hydroxy, (C_1 to C_6) alkyloxy group optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups, or a protected or unprotected amino acid linked to the acyl group of formula V by the amine portion of the amino acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

which process comprises reacting a compound having the formula VI



wherein Hal is bromine, chlorine, iodine, or fluorine, and R_3 is as defined above, with a compound having the formula IV



wherein A, Z, and R_4 are as defined above, in the presence of a nonnucleophilic auxiliary base in a solvent in which at least one of said reactants is at least partially soluble under conditions sufficient to obtain the compound of formula V.

58. (AMENDED) A process according to claim 54 wherein A represents
sulfur and Z represents $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{X}-\text{Ar}$ wherein
n is an integer from 0 to 5,
X represents a methylene, monocyclic heterocyclic ring, sulfur, oxygen or
amino radical, optionally carrying one or more substituents independently selected from C₁ to C₆
alkyl or C₂ to C₆ alkenyl groups, C₁ to C₆ alkoxy or C₁ to C₆ alkoxy(C₁ to C₆) alkyl groups, C₂ to
C₆ alkynyl groups, acyl groups, halogen, amino groups, hydroxyl groups, nitro groups or
mercapto groups, monocyclic carbo- or heterocyclic rings, and fused or non-fused poly-
carbocyclic or poly-heterocyclic rings; and
Ar represents a monocyclic heterocyclic aromatic ring or a bicyclic
heterocyclic ring, all or a portion of which may be aromatic, and wherein the Ar may be fused to
the monocyclic heterocyclic ring of X, and wherein the Ar optionally carries one or more
substituents independently selected from C₁ to C₆ alkyl or C₂ to C₆ alkenyl groups, C₁ to C₆
alkoxy or C₁ to C₆ alkoxy(C₁ to C₆) alkyl groups, C₂ to C₆ alkynyl groups, acyl groups, halogen,
amino groups, hydroxyl groups, nitro groups or mercapto groups, monocyclic carbo- or
heterocyclic rings, and fused or non-fused poly-carbocyclic or poly-heterocyclic rings.

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